

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 01746 030943Z

ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

-----101521 030945Z /10

O 030732Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9646

S E C R E T SEOUL 1746

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, KS, KN, US

SUBJ: POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION OF NEW NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL

1. UNC/USFK ADVISED EMBASSY MARCH 3, ON VERY CLOSE HOLD BASIS, THAT IT BELIEVES IT HAS LOCATED A NEW NORTH KOREAN TUNNELING OPERATION. PRESENT PROPOSAL CALLS FOR BLASTING OPEN TUNNEL SITE BEGINNING AT EARLIEST AT 0800 HOURS ON MORNING MARCH 4 (SEOUL TIME). FINAL APPROVAL HAS NOT YET BEEN OBTAINED BUT IS EXPECTED LATER TODAY FOLLOWING BRIEFING OF USFK DEPUTY COMMANDER. OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO EXPOSE TUNNEL AND EXPLOIT DISCOVERY FROM PROPAGANDA POINT OF VIEW. PRESENCE IN COUNTRY OF NUMEROUS MEDIA REPS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES FOR TEAM SPIRIT WILL FACILITATE WIDE DISSEMINATION.

2. SITE IS IDENTIFIED AS 8-45 LOCATED AT CT306376 (NORTH-WEST OF CHORWON) IN 20TH ROK DIVISION AREA. PHOTOGRAPHY DURING 28 JANUARY - 3 FEBRUARY PERIOD REVEALED VEHICULAR AND SPOIL ACTIVITY. SEISMIC DEVICES IN LATE JANUARY AND EARLY FEBRUARY RECORDED SUBSURFACE MAN-MADE SOUNDS. THESE HAVE CONTINUED INTERMITTENTLY. ON TWO MARCH DEVICES RECORDED THREE HOURS OF DRILLING SOUNDS AND METAL STRIKING ON ROCK. GROUND SURFACE RADAR HAS REVEALED NATURAL OR MAN-MADE ANOMALY APPROXIMATELY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 SEOUL 01746 030943Z

300 METERS IN LENGTH AT SHALLOW DEPTH OF 15-20 FEET AT LOW POINT IN MOUNTAINOUS TERRAIN PROFILE. ANOMALY IS LOCATED JUST SOUTH OF DMZ TAE PUT STILL WITHIN DMZ FENCE. FENCE IS SOUTH OF TAPE FOR TACTICAL REASONS. ENGINEERS BELIEVE USE OF EXPLOSIVE CHARGES IS FEASIBLE AND ENTIRE ANOMALY CAN BE EXPOSED AFTER DAY OR SO OF WORK. ROK FORCES WILL PROVIDE SECURITY.

3. WHILE WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT TUNNEL EXISTS,
CHACES APPEAR GOOD ON BASIS TECHNICAL DATA. OPERATION
HAS BEE DESIGNATED QUOTE SWEEPING SNOW END QUOTE
AND IS BEING VERY CLOSELY HELD. GENERAL VESSEY AND
JOINT CHIEFS HAVE BEEN INFORMED.
STERN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION, TUNNELS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL01746
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840157-2561
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803109/aaaadomm.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 978b24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3124189
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION OF NEW NORTH KOREAN TUNNEL
TAGS: MOPS, KS, KN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/978b24b9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014